

X-MEN

THE STRANGEST TEENS OF ALL!

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

15¢
CC

65
FEB



MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP

GET HIM, CYCLOPS!
IT'S UP TO YOU
AND ICEMAN
NOW!

THEY CAME FROM SPACE...
CRUEL CONQUERORS
FROM ANOTHER STAR!
COULD THE X-TRAORDINARY
X-MEN SAVE ALL MAN-
KIND FROM BECOMING...

TM & © 2005 MARVEL

"SLAVES
OF THE
STAR-
SPAWN!"

**I put 2 full inches on my arms—
3 inches on my chest and trimmed
4 inches off my waist
in just 7 weeks...**

thanks to the Joe Weider
Musclebuilding Course!—

WHY NOT YOU?

**SAYS MOVIE AND T.V. STAR,
ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER,**
"Mr. Universe" winner. He
believes you, too, can easily
duplicate his musclebuilding
success with the Weider Course.

**Why only the Joe Weider "MR. AMERICA"
muscle-building course can MUSCLE YOU UP —
SHAPE YOU UP—TOUGHEN YOU UP—FAST in just
7 short weeks—and in the privacy of your own home.**

It makes no difference whether you're fat, skinny, scraggy or flabby, young
or not-so-young—whether you're an office worker, laborer, executive or school-
boy—the WEIDER SYSTEM will pack 4 inches on your chest, 3 inches on each
arm—give you football-player shoulders, muscularize your waistline, sock your
legs with strength and speed—and "powerize" your entire body—IN JUST 7
SHORT WEEKS—OR LESS!

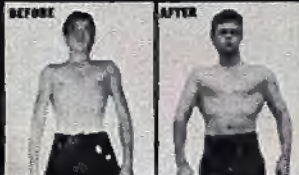
Only the WEIDER SYSTEM can do this for you because it is based on scientific
principle—and proven by the hundreds of thousands of Champions it has
developed since 1938. Practically every Mr. America, Mr. Universe and other
"perfect man" title winners used the WEIDER SYSTEM to build their muscle-
studded bodies.

**NO OTHER MUSCLE-BUILDING SYSTEM ON EARTH CAN MATCH THIS
FABULOUS RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT—AND NOW THAT SAME SURE-FIRE SYSTEM
IS ENTIRELY WITHIN YOUR REACH!**

Just rush in free coupon and I will send you proof that you too can own a
new "Wildcat Take-Charge" body in just 7 short weeks—it's free, while the
supply lasts!

HERE'S LIVING PROOF HOW FAST MY COURSE WORKS!

... IN ONLY 14 DAYS



HE GAINS 16 POUNDS

BEFORE: Walter Leno, Jr. was
weak and "under-nourished"
looking—ashamed to be seen
anywhere in public.

AFTER: Walter used Weider
methods and in just 14 days
put on 16 pounds, 2½" on his
arms and 2½" on his chest!

**IT CAN HAPPEN
TO YOU, TOO!**

IN ONLY 30 DAYS



HE GAINS 25 LBS.

BEFORE: Paul Carmody weighed
a skinny 135 lbs. with
"toothpick" arms and a shallow
chest. He longed to be big
and strong.

AFTER: Paul put himself under
Weider methods and gained 25
muscular lbs. in 30 days,
adding 1½" to his arms,
5" to his chest!

WHY NOT YOU?

**FREE!
BIG
MUSCLE-
BUILDING
BOOK!**

MAIL THIS COUPON TO ME TO-
DAY AND I'LL RUSH YOU MY
NEW BIG 34-PAGE ILLUSTRATED
BOOK—FREE! It's jam-packed
with proof that you can become
an athletic, virile, "Take-Charge" He-
Man in just 7 WEEKS—OR LESS! It's
loaded with photos, tips, suggestions
that will help make your fondest mus-
clebuilding dreams come true—just as
it did for Arnold Schwarzenegger and
over 2,000,000 other successful stu-
dents! SEND FOR IT NOW—IT'S ABSO-
LUTELY FREE!

JOE WEIDER

is your Personal Trainer!
He has trained almost
every "Mr. America", "Mr.
Universe", "Mr. Canada",
perfect man title winners
since 1938—and over
2,000,000 successful
pupils the world over!
No other instructor in history can come
close to this fantastic record!



MAIL THIS COUPON FOR FREE BOOK

JOE WEIDER

Dept. 83—20 A
531 - 32nd Street
Union City, New Jersey 07087

Dear Joe: Okay, sock it to me! Rush me
your free musclebuilding information and
free "Muscle Up" book that I can use
right away to build a handsome new "Take-
Charge" body—in just 7 short weeks—in
the privacy of my own home. I'm enclosing
25c to cover mailing and handling costs.
I'm under no further obligation.

NAME (please print clearly) AGE

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

**YOU'RE UNDER NO OBLIGATION
— NOTHING TO BUY!**

THE STRONGEST, MOST VIRILE AND ADMIRABLE MEN ARE BUILT BY THE WEIDER SYSTEM—FAST!

X-MEN

THE MOST UNUSUAL FIGHTING TEAM ^{OF} ALL TIME!™

"BEFORE I'D BE SLAVE"



WELL... FINALLY!
WE EXPECTED
YOU DAYS
AGO!

WE GOT
BUSY IN
THE CITY--
WITH A GUY
CALLED
SUNFIRE!

ANYWAY,
WHAT'S THE
RUSH?

WE'VE NO TIME
TO WASTE.
CHATTERING!

GET INSIDE
AND CHANGE TO
FIGHTING
GARB-- HURRY!

I SEEM TO
RECALL THAT
THIS IS OUR
HEADQUARTERS!

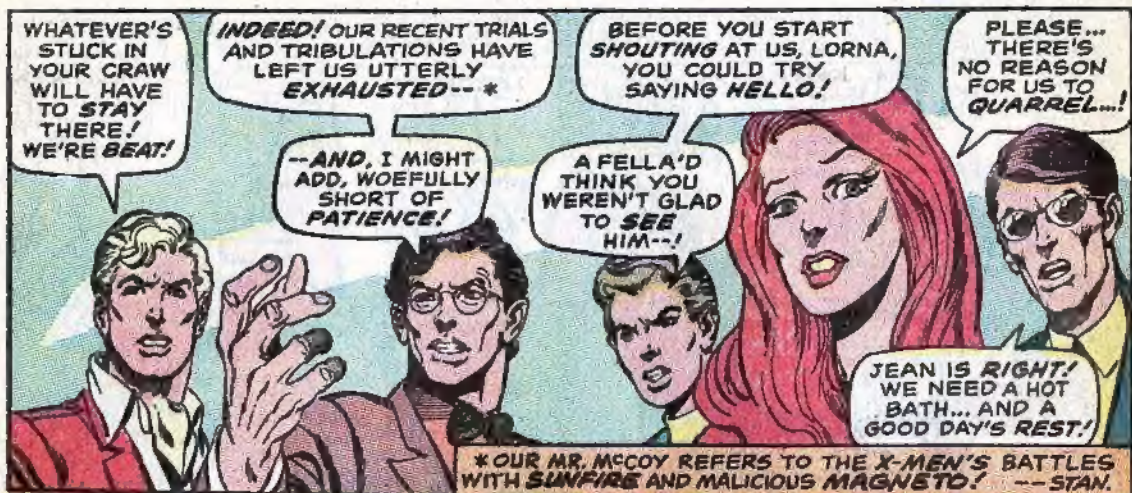
YEAH... WHAT IS
IT WITH YOU TWO?
YOU ACT LIKE
YOU'VE TAKEN OVER
THE WHOLE
OPERATION!

PERMIT AN
INQUIRY-- WHEN
WERE LORNA DANE
AND ALEX SUMMERS
APPOINTED OUR
KEEPERS?

DENNIS HEAL
O'NEIL ADAMS
(WRITER)(ARTIST)
AIDED BY:
TOM PALMER
(INKER)
JEAN IZZO
(LETTERER)

STAN LEE DARED ASK HIMSELF: WHO COULD TELL A PERIL-PACKED TALE WITH A PERTINENT MESSAGE FOR THE MODERN WORLD? THE ANSWER:

THE X-MEN is published by MAGAZINE MANAGEMENT CO., INC. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 625 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly. Copyright ©1969 by Magazine Management Co., Inc., Marvel Comics Group, all rights reserved, 625 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022. Vol. 1, No. 65, February, 1970 issue. Price 15¢ per copy. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in the U.S.A. by World Color Press, Inc., Sparta, Illinois 62286. Subscription rate \$2.00 and \$2.50 Canada for 12 issues including postage. foreign subscription \$3.75.





SO, EACH OF THE WEARY MUTANTS RETIRES BRIEFLY...TO DON A COSTUME, AND MUSE...



CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

Conversation Piece...Collector's Item...Puzzle

THE AMAZING PENNY IN-A BOTTLE



2 for
\$1

1 1968-S Cent...
1 1969-S Cent



Reminds You Of The Classic
Ship-In-A-Bottle

EACH IN ITS
OWN LITTLE
BOTTLE

HOW DID THE PENNIES GET INSIDE??? HOW DID THEY FIT???

How can something so big fit into something so small?

The bottles are real. No seams. No false bottoms. Solid glass! Yet there they are... the pennies are inside and can't get out?

**WHAT'S THE SECRET? HOW DID THEY EVER GET IN? CAN YOU
FIGURE IT OUT? CAN YOUR FRIENDS SOLVE THE MYSTERY?**

A Fascinating Puzzle...Defies All the Rules... Can Your Eyes Be Playing Tricks on You???

ABOUT THE COINS IN THE BOTTLES

"S" tells you the coin was made in the San Francisco mint. The mint mark appears under the date on the "heads" side. This was the first "S" cent since 1955. A true collector's item!

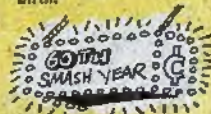
Coins made from the original Lincoln engraving became worn and lost detail. The 1969 cent restores Mr. Lincoln to his original likeness. Hair detail is sharper, garment folds clearer. Everything has been spaced up!



The 1969 cent minted in San Francisco bears the designer's initials—VDB (Victor D. Brenner). Only 480,000 were minted. Some sell for close to \$200. Is there one in your bank?

The Lincoln Cent has enjoyed the longest run of any U.S. coin. Introduced in 1909, the 100th Anniversary of Lincoln's birth.

After 50 years the design of the reverse was changed. From two ears of wheat to the Lincoln Memorial. Designer: Frank Gasparro.



More Lincoln Cents have been minted than the number of people in the world!



In 1943-45 pennies were gray. They were made of zinc coated steel during the war. And in 1944-45 they were made of melted down ammunition cases.

SEND FOR YOUR PENNIES-IN-A-BOTTLE TODAY!

FREE



Coin checklist with your order plus coin kit information plus information about ordering the last U.S. silver coins ever minted.

Sirs: Please rush my 2 Pennies-In-A-Bottle, the Free Coin Checklist and complete Coin Collecting Information \$1.00 is enclosed.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

SCOTT Products • 488 Madison Ave. • N. Y., N. Y. 10022



EVERY TIME
I PUT ON
THESE DUDS,
I'VE GOT TO
WONDER IF
I'LL BE
BURIED IN
THEM--

WHICH IS
NO WAY
FOR A
HERO TO
THINK...
MUCH LESS
AN ANGEL!



THEN--

**SNAP IT UP,
WORTHINGTON!**

**PAY NO ATTENTION
TO THE ILL-MANNERED
OAF, WARREN!**

WHAT KIND OF
NIGHTMARE
IS THAT THING
ON THE
SCREEN?

ACCORDING TO
OUR LITTLE TIN
HITLER THERE,
IT'S REAL!



**BOTH REAL--AND
POWERFUL! YOU
SAW A PRIME
SPECIMEN OF THE
Z'NOX--**

**A STAR-SPAWNED
RACE FROM THE
ANDROMEDA
GALAXY--
UTTERLY
DEDICATED
TO PLUNDER
--AND
ENSLAVEMENT!**



FAR BACK IN 2'NOX HISTORY, EVOLUTION SOURD! IT PRODUCED A RACE ABSOLUTELY LACKING COMPASSION..

**FOR EONS,
THEY HAVE
PERFECTED
THE
TECHNIQUES
OF CONQUEST!**

THEIR ONLY ART
IS WAR! THEIR
ONLY JOY--
DEATH!



ABOUT A MILLENNIUM AGO, Z'NOX
SCIENTISTS DEvised THE
ULTIMATE WEAPON! THEY
PERFECTED A **GRAVITY TRANSFORMER**
DRIVE STRONG ENOUGH TO TRANSPORT
THEIR ENTIRE **PLANET** ANYWHERE
IN THE **COSMOS!**



MISTER, IF
YOU'RE TRYING
TO SCARE US
WITH THIS
HOKEY SCI-FI,
YOU'RE NOT
MAKING IT!

**I'VE SEEN
SCARIER
STORIES
ON STAR
TREK!**

AND EVEN
IF IT'S
TRUE--
SO WHAT?!

ONE MOMENT,
LAD! LET'S
HEAR HIM
OUT!

IF YOU HADN'T **SLEPT** THROUGH YOUR HIGH-SCHOOL SCIENCE CLASSES, SONNY, YOU'D KNOW WHAT HAPPENS WHEN TWO PLANETS GET **CLOSE--!**

THE DELICATE BALANCE OF GRAVITY IS **UPSET...** CAUSING **TIDAL WAVES, EARTHQUAKES...**

--DESTRUCTIVE FORCES THAT MAKE A **COBALT BOMB** LOOK LIKE A **CAP PISTOL!**

YEAH, YEAH, IT'S A BAD SCENE! BUT WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH **US?**

JUST **THIS...** RIGHT NOW, THE **Z'NOX WORLD** IS PASSING THE ORBIT OF **SATURN--**

WITHIN 24 HOURS, IT'LL INTERCEPT **EARTH!**

LAST NIGHT, A **Z'NOX CRAFT** ARRIVED--ITS MISSION, TO SERVE AS **HOMING BEACON** FOR THE MOTHER PLANET!

IT LANDED AT--THE **SOUTH MAGNETIC POLE!**

THE **SOUTH MAGN--?**

THEY'RE COMING, FRIENDS! THEY'RE ALMOST **HERE!**

DO YOU THINK I'D MAKE UP A THING LIKE THAT?

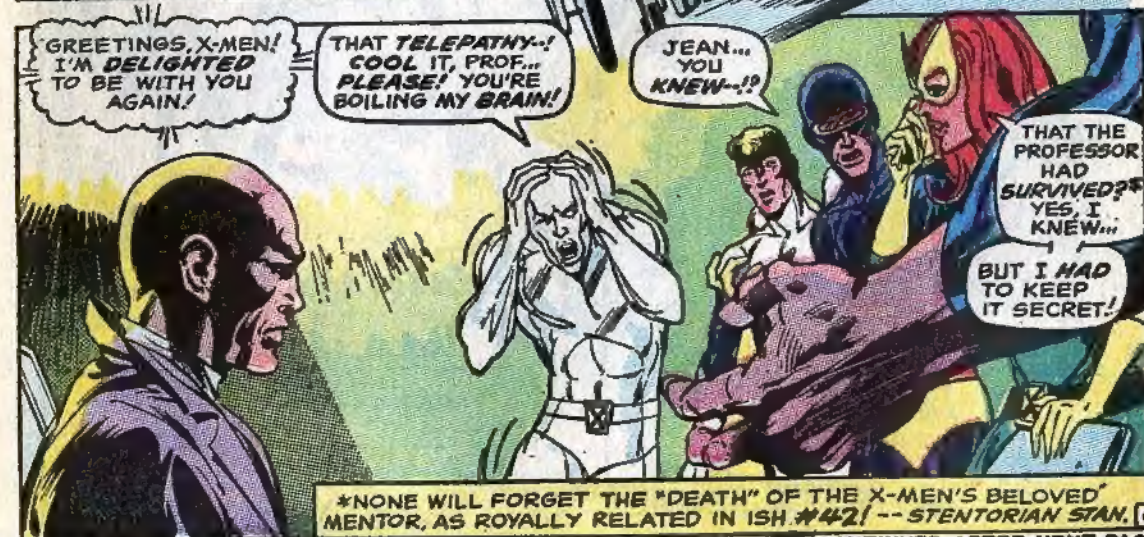
YOUR VERACITY IS NOT PRECISELY **WASHINGTONESQUE!**

FOR YOUR SAKE, I HOPE YOU'RE TELLING THE TRUTH, BROTHER! BECAUSE IF YOU'RE NOT--

UNCLENCH, SCOTTY! SAVE THE MUSCLE FOR THE **ENEMY!**

ALEX... HAVE YOU ANY **PROOF?**

SCOTT... HE **ISN'T** LYING--!



*NONE WILL FORGET THE "DEATH" OF THE X-MEN'S BELOVED MENTOR, AS ROYALLY RELATED IN ISH #42! -- STENTORIAN STAN. 6

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvelous Mags On Sale Right Now!

FANTASTIC FOUR #96: The Mad Thinker is back—more powerful than ever, and aided by his Androids of Death! 'Nuff said!

SPIDER-MAN #82: This is a special ish, in more ways than one! Starring the eerie menace of—Electro! And wait till you see the art!

SILVER SURFER #13: A doomsday bomb, about to destroy the earth! The Surfer, alone on an isle of death! It's drama beyond compare!

AVENGERS #73: The Black Panther battles alone—against the sinister Sons of the Serpent! An instant classic!

THOR #173: All of you could ask for—and more! Ulik unleashed! The Ringmaster and his Circus of Crime! And action! Action! Action!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #123: Can a female defeat Cap? Don't answer till you meet Suprema, deadliest of the species!

X-MEN #65: The return of the most unexpected mutant of all!

Plus—a battle royal against—the Star Spawn!

DAREDEVIL #61: The leering, lethal Jester—the cunning Cobra—the unstoppable Mr. Hyde! And all they want is—DD's death!

HULK #125: The Absorbing Man is back—and ol' Green-Skin's got him! Or—is it the other way around? The answer'll rock ya!

IRON MAN #23: There's never been a hired assassin like—the Mercenary! If you like duel—to the death thrills, this one's for you!

SUB-MARINER #23: At last! The warlord Krang strikes back! Plus—the menace of Orka, the Human Killer Whale!

SGR. FURY #75: We call it "The Deserter!"—and you'll call it one of the greatest war-mags of all time! We kid you not!

TOWER OF SHADOWS #4: Marvel at its most macabre—with three of the most far-out fantasies of all! Watch out for falling bats!

MARVEL TALES #25: The web-spinner—the thunder god—and the battling, blazing fireball! Together again in one mag—and terrific!

MARVEL SUPER-HEROES #25: The Man Without Fear—and the Mutants Without Peer—in other words, DD and the X-Men... and a green-skinned surprise!

AND, OF COURSE—

MY LOVE #4—WHERE MONSTERS DWELL #2—RINGO KID #2—KID COLT OUTLAW #143—MILLIE THE MODEL #180—CHILI #11—MAD ABOUT MILLIE #9—HOMER THE HAPPY GHOST #3—and PETER THE LITTLE PEST #3!

and, STILL ON SALE—

CHAMBER OF DARKNESS #3: The night is dark—the moon is full—and mysterious Marvel's back with three of its spookiest tales yet!

CAPT. SAVAGE #18: It's action time—as Simon Savage blasts his way out of a death camp in the war-torn Pacific!

MARVEL'S GREATEST COMICS #25: The F.F.—fighting side by side with the Sub-Mariner! Not to mention Iron Man and Doc Strange! Plus OUR LOVE STORY #3—RAW-HIDE KID #74—and maybe another mag or two even we can't remember!

Whew!

EXCITING NEW CLUB MARVELMANIA INTERNATIONAL JUMBO POSTERS DECALS

JOIN NOW AND RECEIVE ALL THIS !! WITH YOUR MEMBERSHIP



JUMBO POSTER - 2 FEET BY 3 FEET
2 POSTERS COVER A DOOR

POSTER VALUE \$1.50



16 PAGE COLOR CATALOG
ON OTHER ITEMS AVAILABLE

100% ENTIRE



DECAL SHEET 1 FOOT x 1 FOOT

DECAL SHEET VALUE \$1.50

ONLY
\$1.75
PLUS .25 POSTAGE
AND HANDLING

EXTRA BONUS

JOIN NOW AND RECEIVE 11 EXTRA DECALS

HERE IS MY \$1.75 PLUS .25 POSTAGE AND HANDLING PLEASE RUSH MY MEMBERSHIP KIT...

SEND TO MARVELMANIA: DEPT. M
P.O.B. 718, CULVER CITY, CALIF. 90230

PRINT NAME _____ AGE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE!! ADD .50% FOR CANADIAN AND EUROPEAN ORDERS!! ALLOW 3 TO 4 WEEKS DELIVERY!!

50th ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL BONUS OFFER

OFFICIAL NFL HELMETS

BEAUTIFUL MINIATURE REPLICAS

FOR KIDS FROM 6 TO 60



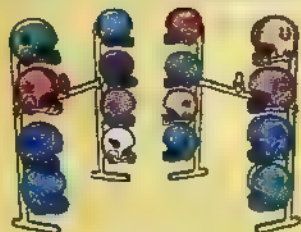
Now, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Professional Football, we offer these beautiful miniature toy helmets—exact duplicates of all the National Football League team colors and insignias. Imagine the surprise and delight as you build your own special collection of all your favorite PRO FOOTBALL TEAMS. You will be thrilled when you yourself put on the teams' Insignias and stripes you receive with the helmets. These miniature PRO FOOTBALL HELMETS are complete in every detail, even down to the tiny detachable faceguards. They are a football fan's ideal, a collector's delight, and a treasured toy in the family for years and years to come.

START YOUR COLLECTION NOW

Hours and Hours of Fun and Excitement for the Whole Family. ASSEMBLE THEM... SHOW THEM EVEN TRADE THEM. Be among the first to start this exciting collection. Make your child the hero of the neighborhood with this 50th Anniversary Gridiron Classic. These little helmets are available in sets of four for only \$1.00 as listed below.

Pro-Football Merchandising, Inc. Dept. F-501
4806 Bergenline Avenue
Union City, N. J. 07087

SPECIAL BONUS OFFER!
ALL 16 HELMETS ONLY \$3.00
PLUS 2 FREE DISPLAY GOAL POSTS
with OFFICIAL N.F.L. EMBLEMS



Yes, if you wish to purchase all 16 HELMETS at one time, you will save \$1.00 on the purchase price, and in addition, receive 2 goal posts complete with N.F.L. insignia. These goal posts are specially designed to display all 16 little helmets.

ALSO AVAILABLE: ALL 10 OFFICIAL A.F.L. HELMETS PLUS GOAL POST FOR ONLY \$2.

Set A
New York Giants
Dallas Cowboys
Washington Redskins
Philadelphia Eagles

Set B
Cleveland Browns
Pittsburgh Steelers
New Orleans Saints
St. Louis Cardinals

Set C
Green Bay Packers
Minnesota Vikings
Chicago Bears
Detroit Lions

Set D
Baltimore Colts
Los Angeles Rams
San Francisco 49ers
Atlanta Falcons

Pro-Football Merchandising, Inc. 4806 Bergenline Avenue, Union City, N. J. 07087

Pro-Football Merchandising, Inc. Dept. F-501
4806 Bergenline Avenue
Union City, N. J. 07087

Gentlemen:

Please send me the following HELMET SETS:

- ☐ Set A \$1.00 plus 25¢ post. & hdg. ☐ Set C \$1.00 plus 25¢ post. & hdg.
☐ Set B \$1.00 plus 25¢ post. & hdg. ☐ Set D \$1.00 plus 25¢ post. & hdg.
☐ All 16 N.F.L. HELMETS \$3.00 postpaid Plus 2 FREE GOAL POSTS
☐ All 10 A.F.L. HELMETS \$2.00 postpaid. Plus 1 FREE GOAL POST

I enclose cash, check or money order. Sorry, no C.O.D.

Name _____

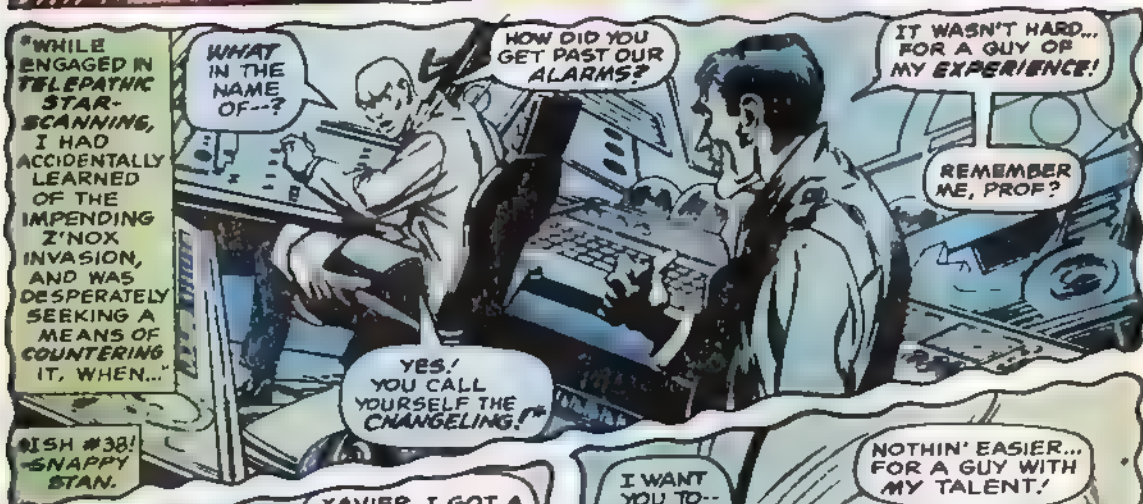
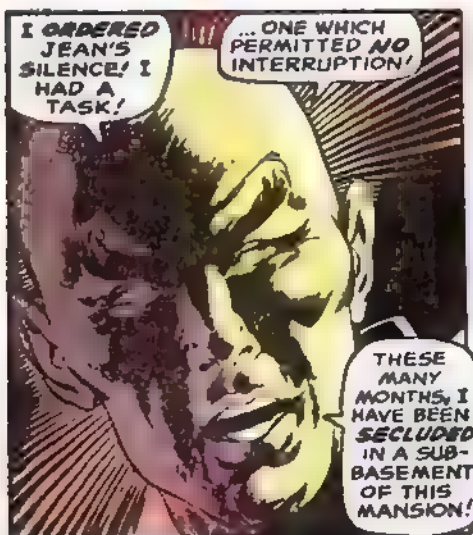
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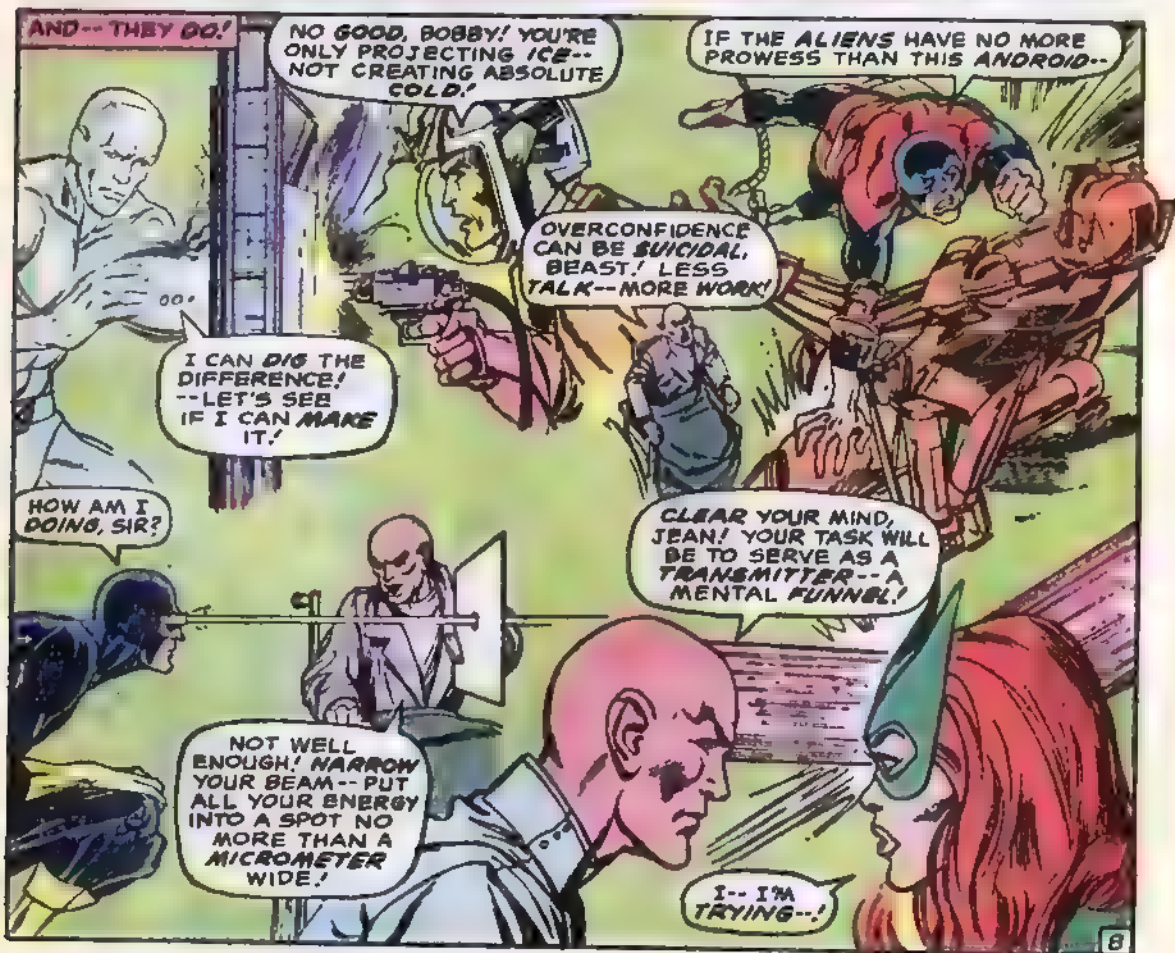
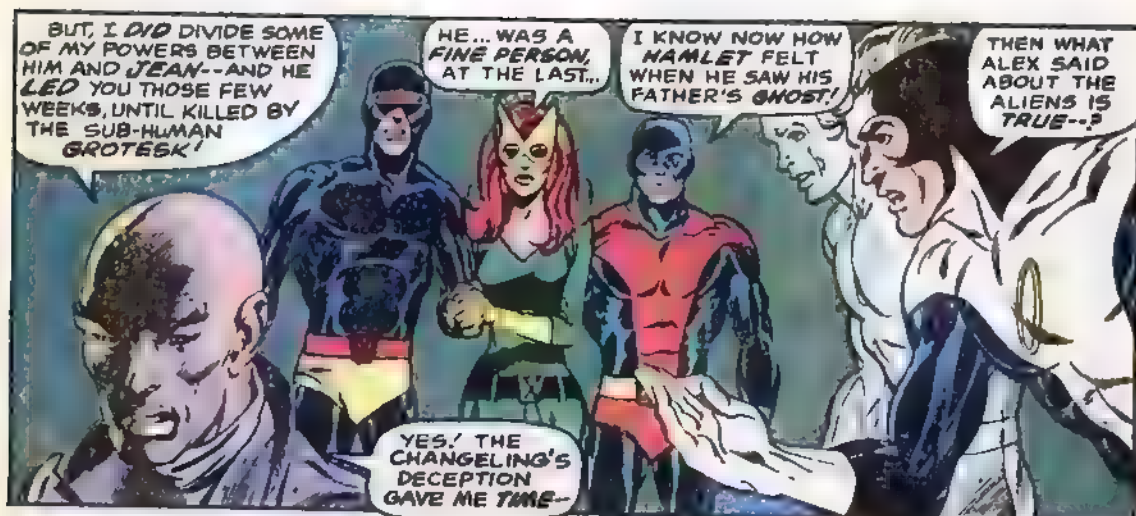
City _____

State _____

Zip _____







EVEN AS THE MUTANTS AND THEIR MENTOR STRIVE TO SHARPEN THEIR SPECTACULAR SKILLS, ANOTHER FORCE IS PREPARING TO HURL ITSELF AGAINST THE INVADERS - FOR IN THE SOMBER SKIES ABOVE THE SOUTH MAGNETIC POLE...

WE HAVE THE BOSSY PINPOINTED, COLONEL! IT APPEARS TO BE OF EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL ORIGIN!

HOORAY FER IT!
YOU BIRDIES ALL SET?

READY TO GO, COLONEL FURY!

THEN...
SIC EM!

-- ONLY TO BE MET WITH INSTANTANEOUS ANNIHILATION FROM THE MERCILESS Z'NOX WEAPONS!

I HADN'T COUNTED ON SHIELD INTERVENTION!

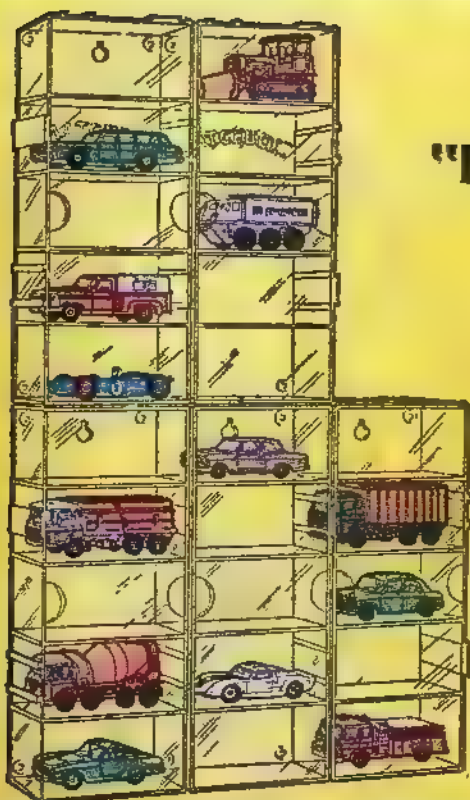
THEIR ATTACK WILL ALERT THE STAR-SPAWN

WE'VE GOT TO ACT IMMEDIATELY!

ONE BY ONE, SHIELD'S SLEEK WARPLANES PLUMMET TOWARD THEIR TARGET LIKE IMPOSSIBLY SWIFT BIRDS OF PREY...

BLAM!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE



BUILD A WHOLE "MATCHBOX" CAR CITY IN YOUR ROOM.

Wouldn't it be fun to make a see-through skyscraper as high as your ceiling? Or garages as wide as your wall? You can. All you need is your imagination and snap-together "MATCHBOX" Home Displays. Each plastic display holds 5 models. And they stand on the floor or a table or hang on a hook. And they'll keep your whole "MATCHBOX" collection neat and clean and on view. Buy one or two whenever you can. And don't worry if your city takes time. Remember, Rome wasn't built in a day.

"MATCHBOX" Home Displays at your "MATCHBOX" dealer now. 49¢ each.

For free color catalog send request to:

FRED BRONNER CORPORATION,
a Division of Leane Products & Co. Ltd.
120 East 23rd Street, New York, N.Y. 10010

BOYS 12 or older

MAKE \$1 to \$5 Weekly in Your Spare Time



Sell GRIT

"America's Greatest Family Newspaper"—
the popular publication in 1,200,000 homes

**MAKE
5¢ PROFIT**
on every
copy

**WIN
PRIZES
LIKE THIS
TOO**

Camera, Watch, Radio, Sports
Equipment, Bike Equipment,
Hunting Knife, Models and other
things boys like.

Grab this opportunity to have your own profitable business. GRIT will help you get started—send you papers and selling help. You pay only for the papers you sell until you know how many to order.

GRIT is easy to sell. It is the favorite newspaper for more than 1,200,000 families from coast to coast every week.

You can build up a big sale quickly by showing your copies to friends and neighbors. Get started at once!

Print Name and Address Below

If You Are a Boy 12
Years Old or Older

GRIT PUBLISHING CO., Williamsport, Pa. 17701 MC2-0

Send my first bundle of papers, selling help and prize offers.

Name

Are You a Boy? ☐ Age Date Born Year

In Care of

Street and No. R. F. D.

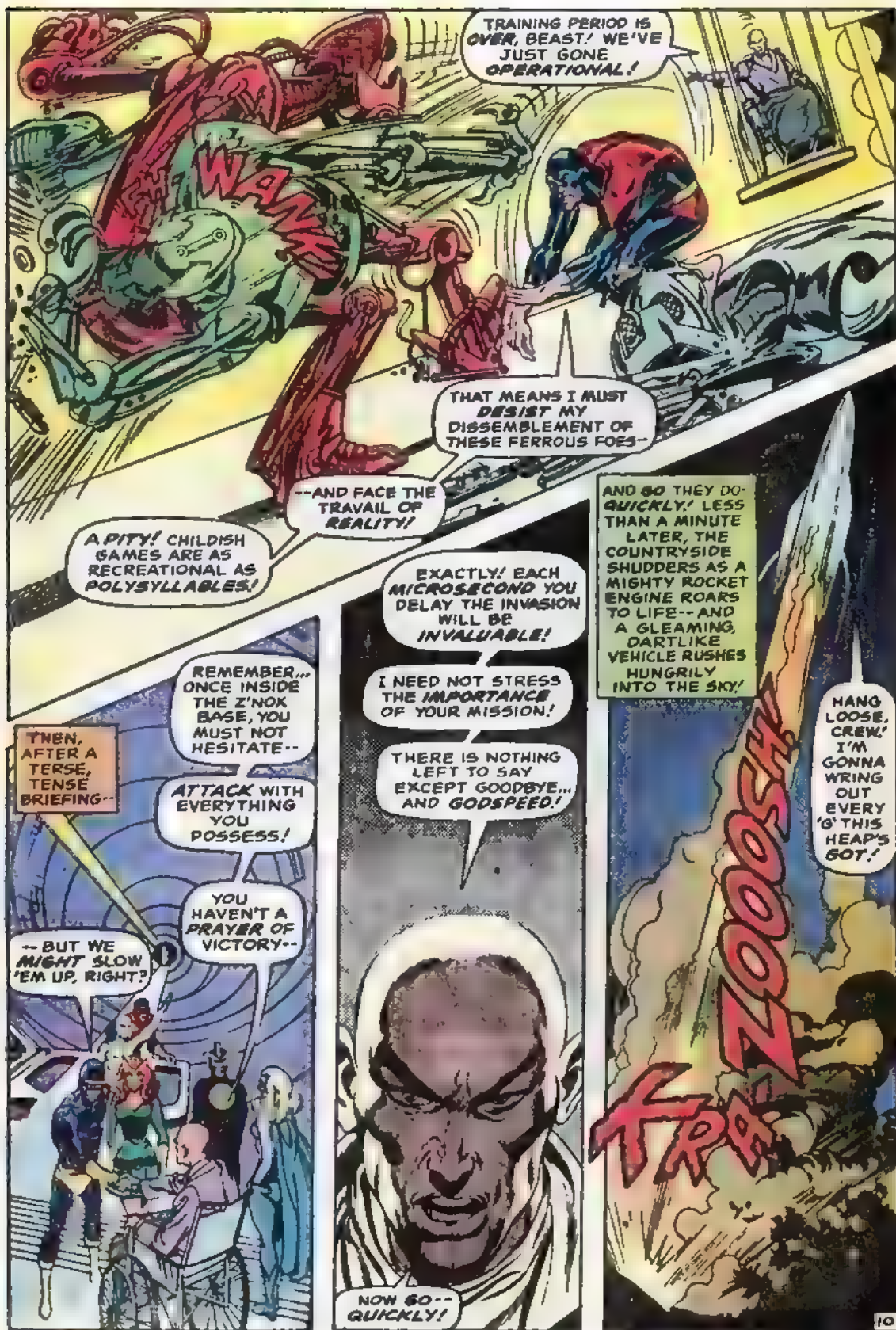
Post Office State

Zip Code No.

**MAIL
THIS
TODAY**

In an Envelope
Papers sent only
to boys in
Continental U. S.

Print Your
Last Name
Plainly Here



TRAINING PERIOD IS OVER, BEAST! WE'VE JUST GONE OPERATIONAL!

THAT MEANS I MUST DESIST MY DISSEMBLEMENT OF THESE FERROUS FOES--

--AND FACE THE TRAVAIL OF REALITY!

A PITY! CHILDISH GAMES ARE AS RECREATIONAL AS POLYSYLLABLES!

EXACTLY! EACH MICROSECOND YOU DELAY THE INVASION WILL BE INVALUABLE!

I NEED NOT STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUR MISSION!

THERE IS NOTHING LEFT TO SAY EXCEPT GOODBYE... AND GODSPEED!

AND SO THEY DO QUICKLY! LESS THAN A MINUTE LATER, THE COUNTRYSIDE SHUDDERS AS A MIGHTY ROCKET ENGINE ROARS TO LIFE-- AND A GLEAMING, DARTLIKE VEHICLE RUSHES HUNGRILY INTO THE SKY!

HANG LOOSE, CREW! I'M GONNA WRING OUT EVERY 'G THIS HEAP'S GOT!

REMEMBER... ONCE INSIDE THE Z'NOK BASE, YOU MUST NOT HESITATE--

ATTACK WITH EVERYTHING YOU POSSESS!

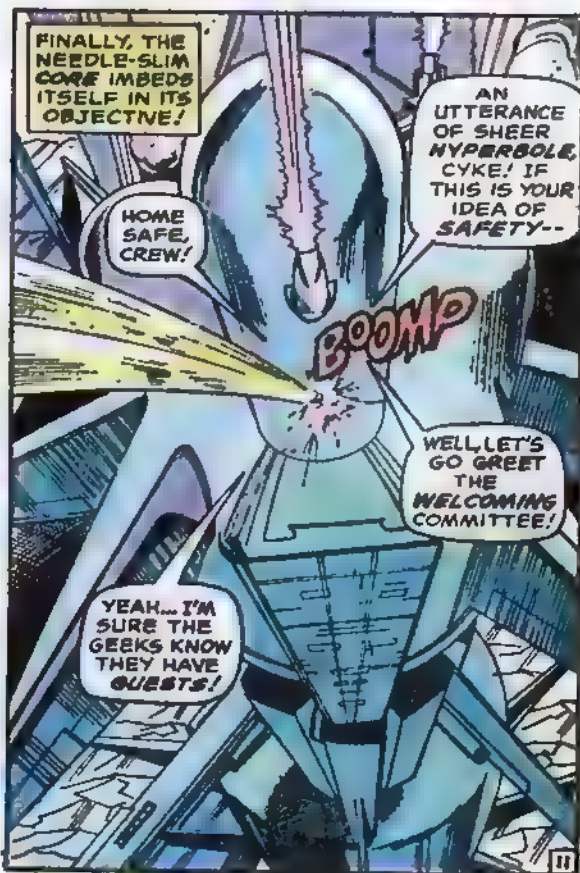
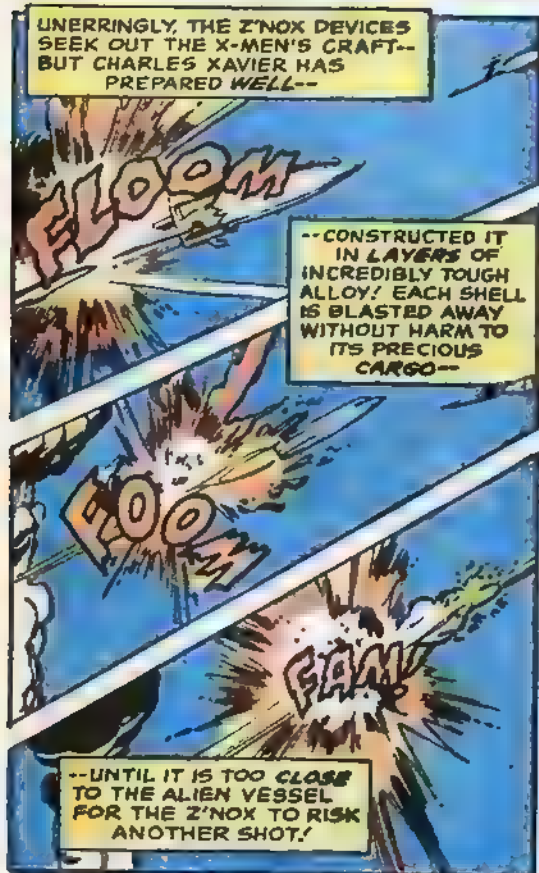
YOU HAVEN'T A PRAYER OF VICTORY--

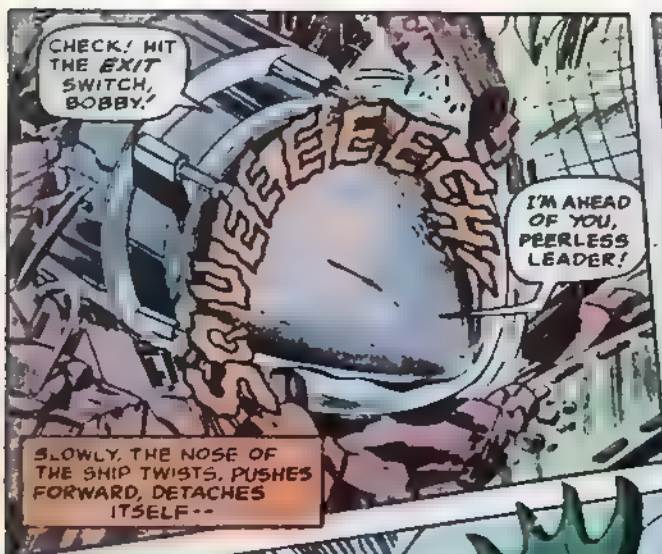
THEN, AFTER A TERSE, TENSE BRIEFING--

-- BUT WE MIGHT SLOW 'EM UP, RIGHT?

NOW GO-- QUICKLY!

ZOOOOSH
KRA

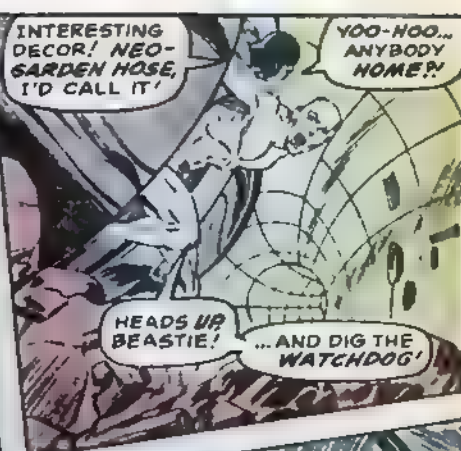




CHECK! HIT THE EXIT SWITCH, BOBBY!

I'M AHEAD OF YOU, PEERLESS LEADER!

SLOWLY, THE NOSE OF THE SHIP TWISTS, PUSHES FORWARD, DETACHES ITSELF--



INTERESTING DECOR! NEO-GARDEN HOSE, I'D CALL IT!

YOO-HOO... ANYBODY HOME?!

HEADS UP BEASTIE!

...AND DIG THE WATCHDOG!



'TIS FORMIDABLE ENOUGH TO DISCOURAGE EVEN THE STAUCHEST MAILMAN!

STAND BACK, GUYS... I'M GONNA GIVE FIDO AN ICE KENNEL!

NO, BOBBY! IT'S TOO BIG-- TOO POWERFUL!

WE'VE GOT TO WEAKEN IT FIRST!



IT'S NOT OFTEN THAT I CAN TAKE OFF THE GLOVES...

...AND LET LOOSE FULL STRENGTH...

BUT THIS PLAYMATE WILL TAKE EVERYTHING I'VE GOT!

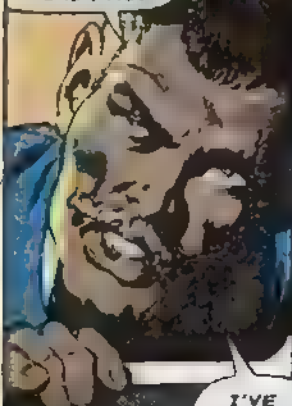
--AND PERHAPS A BIT MORE!

"GOOD EVENING, WELL, THE NEWS TONIGHT IS... **DISASTERS!** SEVERAL ASIAN FRONTS HAVE BEEN HIT BY **EARTHQUAKES!** AND ACCORDING TO A REPORT JUST IN A SMALL PACIFIC ISLAND WAS **SUNK!** DAVID?"



"THERE ARE AS MANY THEORIES EXPLAINING THE CATAclysms AS THERE ARE SCIENTISTS! ONE OF THE MOST INTERESTING HAS BEEN PROPOSED BY DR. THEODORE NORTON'S NOTED ASTRONOMER."

THEORY? NO, GENTLEMEN, THIS IS FACT!

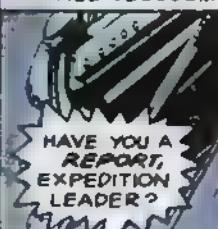


I'VE OBSERVED A PLANET ABOUT THE SIZE OF PLUTO-- RUSHING TOWARD THE EARTH--!

ALREADY IT IS DISRUPTING MANY ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS!

BARRING A MIRACLE, WE ARE... DOOMED!

AND, INSIDE THE HOSTILE VESSEL...



HAVE YOU A REPORT, EXPEDITION LEADER?



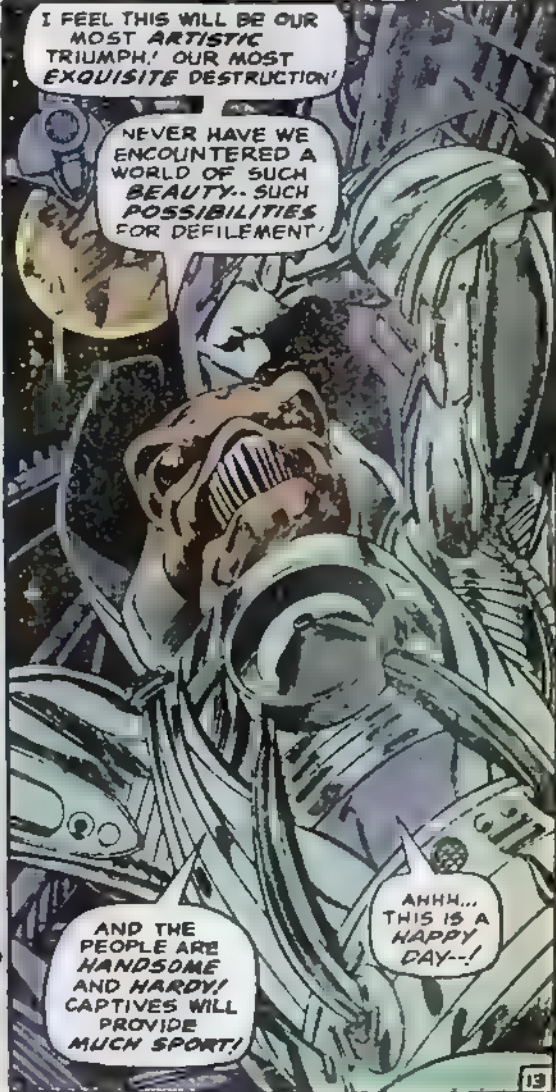
Aye, HIGH COMMANDER-- A MOST EXCELLENT REPORT!

WE HAVE ENCOUNTERED MINOR RESISTANCE--

--THE LAST OF WHICH IS PRESENTLY BEING ELIMINATED!

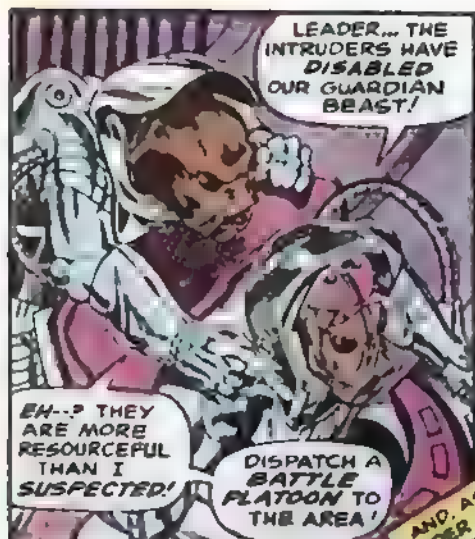
I FEEL THIS WILL BE OUR MOST ARTISTIC TRIUMPH! OUR MOST EXQUISITE DESTRUCTION!

NEVER HAVE WE ENCOUNTERED A WORLD OF SUCH BEAUTY-- SUCH POSSIBILITIES FOR DEFILEMENT!



AND THE PEOPLE ARE HANDSOME AND HARDY! CAPTIVES WILL PROVIDE MUCH SPORT!

ANHH... THIS IS A HAPPY DAY--!

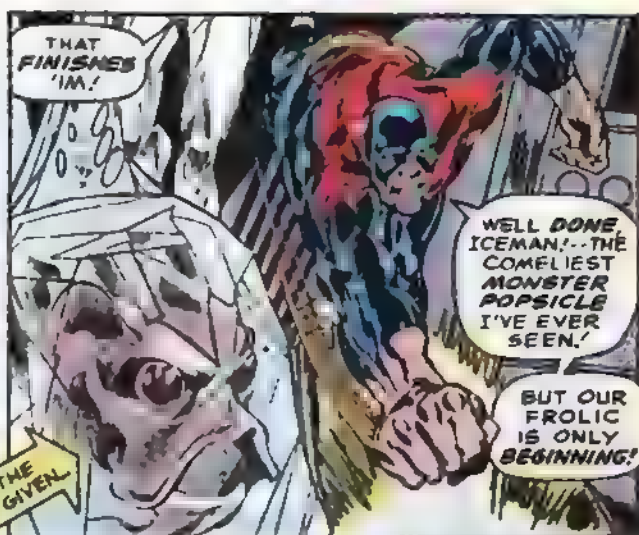


LEADER... THE INTRUDERS HAVE DISABLED OUR GUARDIAN BEAST!

EH--? THEY ARE MORE RESOURCEFUL THAN I SUSPECTED!

DISPATCH A BATTLE PLATOON TO THE AREA!

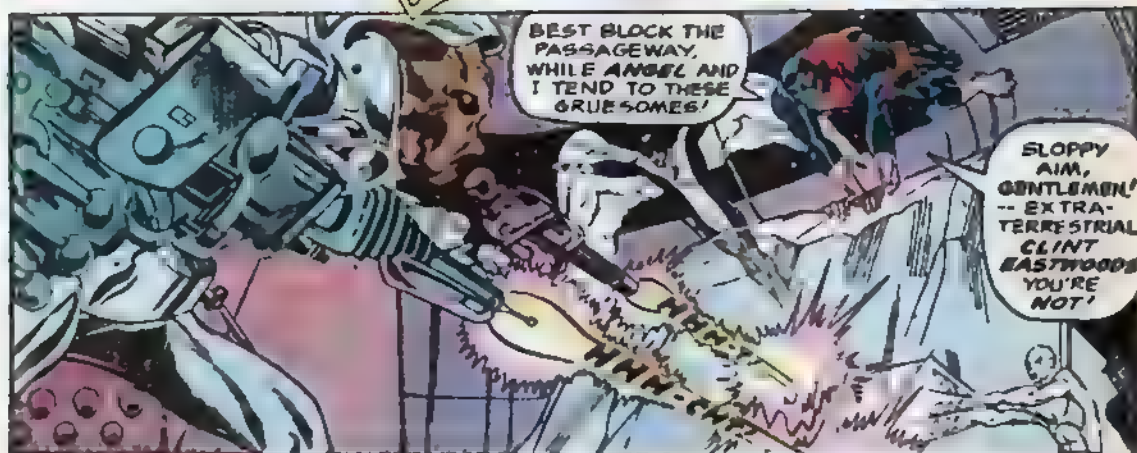
AND, AS THE ORDER IS GIVEN...



THAT FINISHES 'IM!

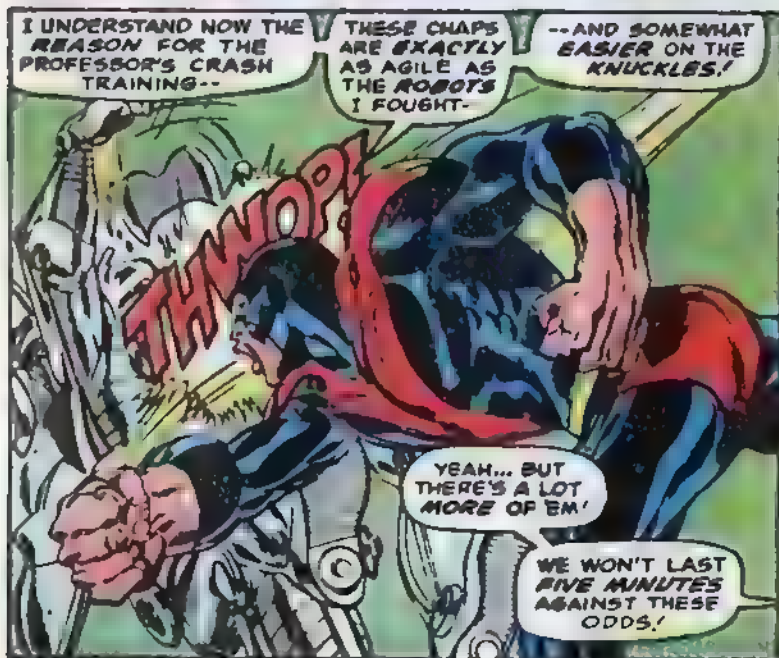
WELL DONE ICEMAN!...THE COMELIEST MONSTER POPICLE I'VE EVER SEEN.

BUT OUR FROLIC IS ONLY BEGINNING!



BEST BLOCK THE PASSAGEWAY, WHILE ANGEL AND I TEND TO THESE GRUESOMES!

SLOPPY AIM, GENTLEMEN! -- EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL CLINT EASTWOODS YOU'RE NOT!



I UNDERSTAND NOW THE REASON FOR THE PROFESSOR'S CRASH TRAINING--

THESE CHAPS ARE EXACTLY AS AGILE AS THE ROBOTS I FOUGHT--

--AND SOMEWHAT EASIER ON THE KNUCKLES!

THWOP!

YEAH... BUT THERE'S A LOT MORE OF 'EM!

WE WON'T LAST FIVE MINUTES AGAINST THESE ODDS!



I SENSE MY X-MEN WEAKENING!

THOUGH I AM NOT NEARLY AS STRONG AS I HOPED I'D BE--

I--AND THE EARTH-- CAN AFFORD NO FURTHER DELAY!

LORNA! READY YOURSELF!

AND
SO IT
BEGINS--

WITH SUPERHUMAN WILL,
CHARLES XAVIER FORCES
HIS MIND OUT, AWAY, HIS
QUESTING THOUGHTS RANGE
OVER THE ENTIRE SURFACE
OF THE WORLD--

--PROBING, SEARCHING,
QUESTIONING,
DEMANDING--
SEEKING KINDRED
SPIRITS--

--MEN AND
WOMEN OF
GOOD WILL!
-- HUMAN
BEINGS WHO
HAVE IN
GOOD
MEASURE
THE SINGLE
TRAIT HE
DESPERATELY
NEEDS--

- COMPASSION' FOR IT IS
ONLY THIS WHICH WILL
BEST THE ENEMY-- /

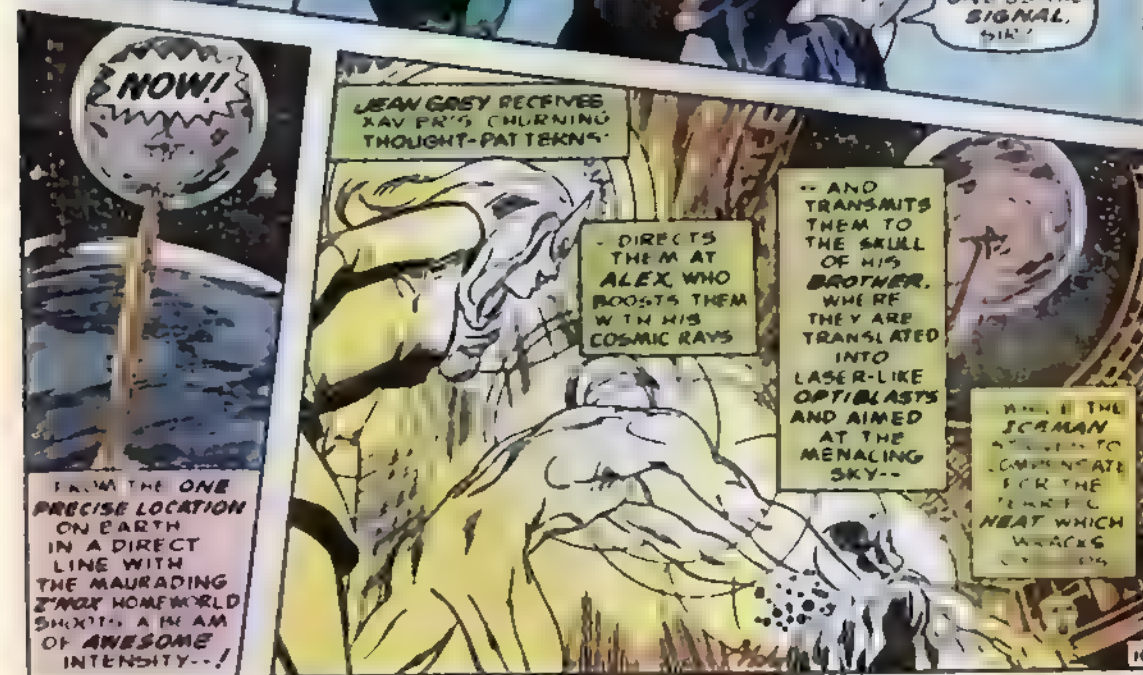
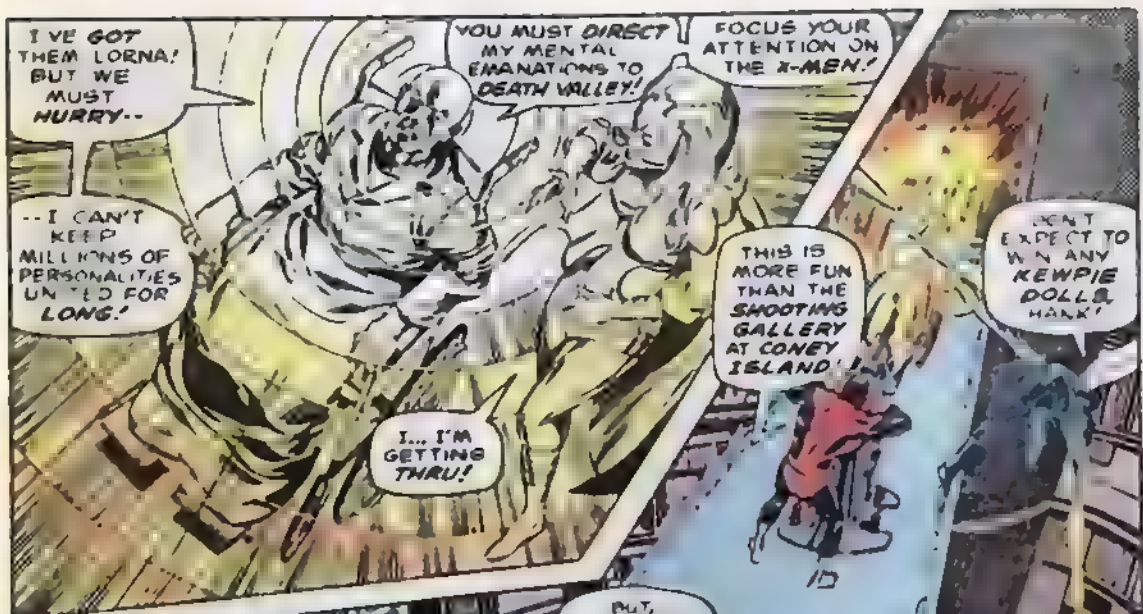
SOME HE REJECTS
IMMEDIATELY, BECAUSE TO
DISTRACT THEM WOULD BE TO
CAUSE IRREPARABLE HARM--
SURGEONS, PILOTS...

--OTHERS HE DISMISSES BECAUSE
HE FINDS THEIR PSYCHES TAINTED
WITH HATRED, CRUELTY, PREJUDICE,
LOVE OF DEATH-- THE SICKNESS
WHICH THE 2'VOX CHERISH

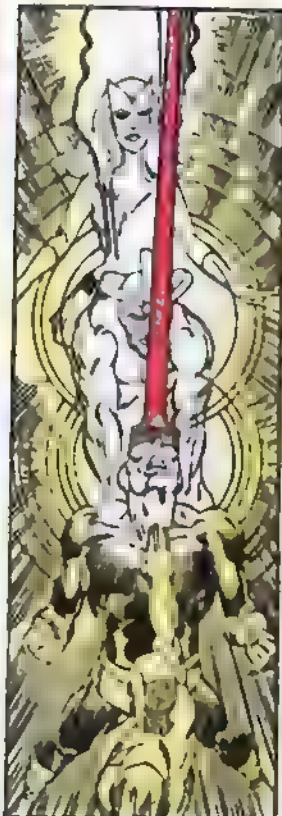
THEN, MIRACULOUSLY, THOSE OTHER
MULTITUDES OF INDIVIDUALS BECOME
JOINED-- BECOME AS ONE PERSON!

5

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

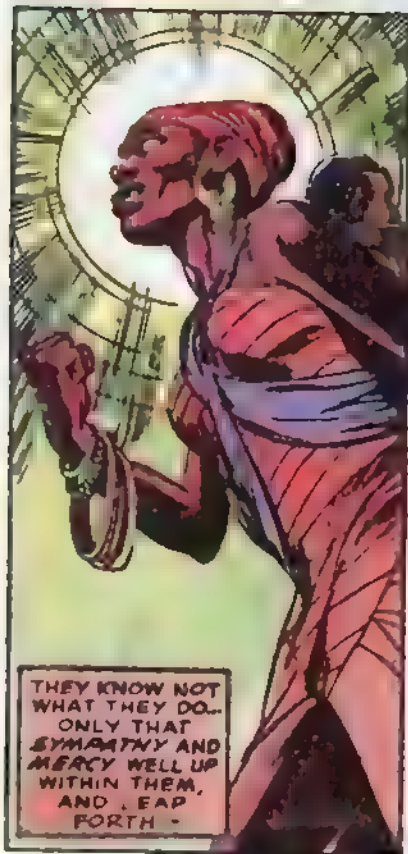


THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO.
THESE WHO STRUGGLE. THEY
KNOW ONLY THAT SUDDENLY,
THEY ARE FILLED WITH AN ALL-
CONSUMING DETERMINATION--

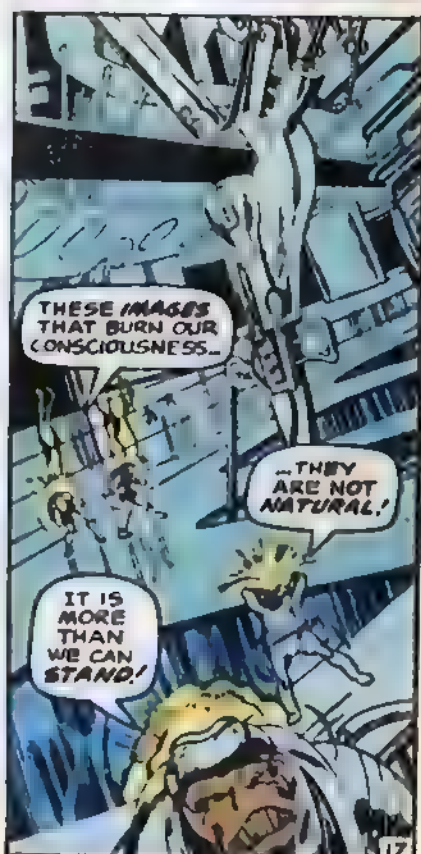


LEADER--
THE
PAIN!

WE ARE BEING
ATTACKED...
BUT BY WHAT?



THEY KNOW NOT
WHAT THEY DO...
ONLY THAT
SYMPATHY AND
MERCY WELL UP
WITHIN THEM,
AND LEAP
FORTH -



THESE IMAGES
THAT BURN OUR
CONSCIOUSNESS...

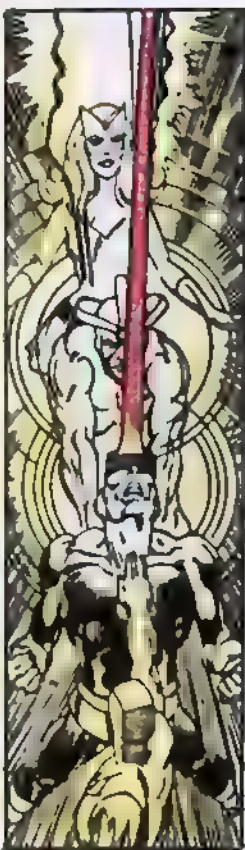
...THEY
ARE NOT
NATURAL!

IT IS
MORE
THAN
WE CAN
STAND!

THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO. ONLY THAT THEY ARE FILLED WITH BONE-DEEP NEED TO BE FREE--



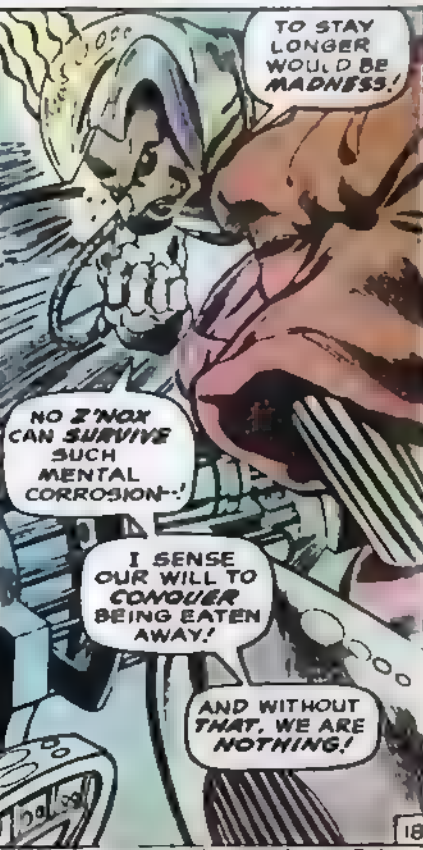
THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO. ONLY THAT THEY ARE GRIPPED WITH AN URGENCY, A FIERCE DESIRE TO RIGHT THE WRONGS OF CENTURIES--



WE CAN NOT COMBAT WHAT HAS NO FACE.. NO FORM--!



-- THIS IS AGONY BEYOND IMAGINING!



TO STAY LONGER WOULD BE MADNESS!

NO Z'NOX CAN SURVIVE SUCH MENTAL CORROSION--!

I SENSE OUR WILL TO CONQUER BEING EATEN AWAY!

AND WITHOUT THAT, WE ARE NOTHING!

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LOATHSOME THOUGH
IT IS, WE MUST
ADMIT DEFEAT!

ATTENTION
ALL UNITS!
REVERSE
DRIVES!

...WE ARE,
ABANDONING
THIS SOLAR
SYSTEM... AT
MAXIMUM
SPEED!

THEN LIKE A
CAPRICIOUS
COMET, THE
Z'NOX
WORLD VEERS,
ACCELERATES,
AND IS
SWALLOWED UP
BY THE INFINITY
OF THE
UNIVERSE!



X-MEN... YOU MAY RELAX!
THE VICTORY IS OURS...
AND HUMANITY'S!

JNNHH

...TOO MUCH
STRAIN!
--BLACKING
OUT!

EASY
CYKE-- LET
YOURSELF
UNWIND
WE'LL GET
YOU TO
THE SHIP!

AND, WITH A FINAL EFFORT,
CHARLES XAVIER RELEASES THE
VALIANT MANY WHOSE COURAGE
AND DECENCY QUELLED THE
MOST TERRIBLE THREAT OF ALL--



GO... AND
GOD
BLESS...



I'M WEARY,
SO TOTALLY...
WEARY...!
PLEASE WHEEL
ME TO MY
R..ROOM..

PROFESSOR!
..PROFESSOR
XAVIER!

AARRHH!



HE--HE SAVED A WORLD--
PERHAPS A UNIVERSE--!

HAS IT
COST
HIM...
HIS
LIFE?!

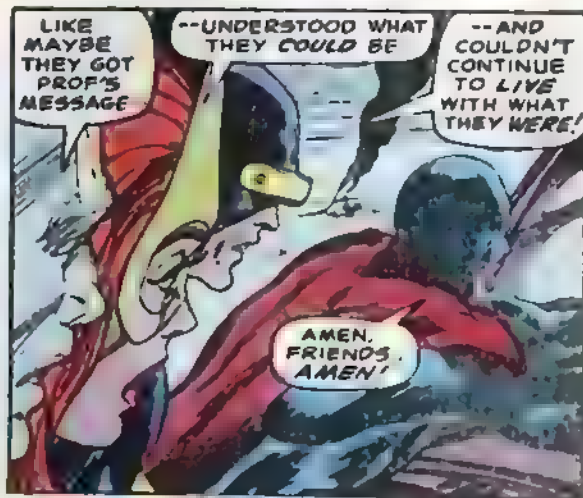


UNAWARE OF THEIR MENTOR'S FLIGHT, THE
EXHAUSTED MUTANTS TRUDGE TO THEIR
ROCKET, AND BLAST CLEAR OF THE LAST
REMNANT OF THE INVASION--

THE Z'NOX...
THEY'VE
DELIBERATELY
EXPLODED
THEIR
VESSEL!

BOOOOSH
B-WAH

WHY? WE
DIDN'T
DAMAGE IT--!
THEY
COULD'VE
REJOINED
THEIR
COMPANIONS!



LIKE
MAYBE
THEY GOT
PROF'S
MESSAGE

--UNDERSTOOD WHAT
THEY COULD BE

--AND
COULDN'T
CONTINUE
TO LIVE
WITH WHAT
THEY WERE!

AMEN.
FRIENDS.
AMEN!

NEXT:
THE HULK!

INCREDIBLE ITEMS AND INCONCEIVABLE INFO OF INESTIMABLE IMPORTANCE!

ITEM! The biggest news of the month is the fact that JAZZY JOHN NY ROMITA will be penciling SPIDER MAN once more. But we've still another surprise in store for all you Spideyphiles—Stan and Johnny have decided to go back to the Web-Swinger's original style of story picturization and also to put more emphasis on Peter Parker's private life, as so many of you have requested. So whatever you do, don't dare miss SPIDER MAN #82 now on sale. It marks the beginning of still another plateau of greatness for the most realistic, most respected, most razzle-dazzle superhero the world has ever known. And we've been giving you the soft sell, cause you know how we hate to brag!

ITEM! Remember ol' JERRY SIEGEL, one of comicdom's top name pioneers who basked in our Bullpen before heading for a more leisurely life on the West Coast? Well, just thought you'd like to know that his daughter recently won a scholarship to UCLA. Our congrats to a grand guy and his groovy girl child.

ITEM! We've finally made up our minds! After all these years, we're gonna see if we can do it! It'll probably set the comics-mag world back on its collective ear, but nothing'll stop us! It's such an earth-shattering decision, that we hardly know how to tell you! It's like the end of an era! It'll shatter the traditions of Marvel-dom to their very foundation! But, do it we must and do it we shall! So, hold onto your hats, cause here's the bit! Starting sooner or later, in some ish or other, we're gonna try using PERIODS instead of those fursch-lugginer EXCLAMATION POINTS with which we've been ending every sentence since comics began! It'll take a while before you'll notice the change, because we print our mags so many months in advance, but watch for it—if you can stand the shock! Will it lessen your reading pleasure? Will it toss you off balance? Will you think you picked up the wrong mag? Will anyone give a hoot? Only time will tell! Only Marvel would care! Only the Thing has four fingered hands!

ITEM! For years, LAUGHIN' LARRY LIEBER has been the butt of a zillion jokes around here because of his painstaking approach to everything he writes and draws. In fact, MERRY MARIE SEVERIN used to claim it took Larry as long to sharpen his pencil as it took anyone else to draw a couple of pages. Of course Larry proudly replied that he had the sharpest pencils in the place! Anyway, we've suddenly realized that the Laughing One's RAW

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Each week brings hundreds of letters asking exactly how we produce our mags. And now, if the competition will promise not to peek, here's where we'll try to clue you in. First, the artist and the writer have a story conference, because, unlike other comic-mag publishers, Marvel believes the artist contributes as much to the story as the writer does. Then, once the plot details have been worked out, the artist goes off by his lonesome and draws the strip in pencil—drawing it any way he pleases, since the script hasn't yet been written. (So far as we know, Marvel is the only company to use this free and easy, highly-creative method—Free plug!) Next, the pencilled drawings are given to the writer, who creates the dialogue balloons, captions, and any other copy needed. After that, a letterer prints all the copy in the correct places (we hope), using a lettering pen dipped in jet black India ink. Finally the pages go to the inker (embellisher) (or delineator—depending upon how fancy you are), who draws over the pencilled sketches with a brush and/or pen, also using permanent black ink. Now that the pages are drawn and lettered, we make copies of them and one of our swingin' staff of colorists paints these copies so that they can be used as color guides by the engraver when he receives the mag. After the engraver makes the engravings, they're sent to the printer and another Marvel masterwork is lovingly brought to life. Next, the millions of printed copies go to a national distributor who sends them to regional whole-salers who send them to your friendly neighborhood magazine dealer whose tender loving heart goes pitty-pat every time you buy one!

Excelsior!
Stan

HIDE KID mag is one of Marvel's steadiest and most dependable selling 15c's—and Western story fans everywhere have been demanding that we publish it monthly. So, shed a tear for poor Larrupin' Larry. Instead of coasting along, doing one mag every two months, and getting his kicks with the pencil sharpener, he's gonna have to leave the ol' corral and ride bent for leather to make his deadlines! Can he do it? Will he do it? We'll letcha know, soon as he dries his eyes.

ITEM! Remember a few years back when we told you about FEDERICO FELLINI visiting us at the Bullpen because he was a merry Marvel fan?

Well, who says lightning doesn't strike twice? We've gotta tell you that we have another, equally famous European film director who's equally hung up on our mixed up little mags. So say hello to world-renowned ALAIN RESNAIS, the French film genius who gave us such films as HIROSHIMA, MON AMOUR LA GUERRE EST FINI... and LAST YEAR AT MARIENBAD. Alain's a fanatical Marvel booster from way back, and he and SMILIN STAN have shared many pleasant hours rappin' about movies, comic mags, and the arts in general. According to Alain, Marvel Comics are definitely the "in" thing in the arty circles of Europe today—and that kinda talk isn't exactly gonna turn us off!—Just thought you'd like to know the company you're in, Faithful One!

ITEM! Here's a late flash from MARVELMANIA INTERNATIONAL. (That new company we told you about a few issues back, remember?) All members in good standing of the ol' MMMS are eligible to join M1 for the courtesy rate of only 50¢ which entitles you to a new membership card, club catalogue, and a copy of the club magazine. Just send your four bits for postage and handing to MARVELMANIA INTERNATIONAL, P.O. Box 718, Culver City, Calif. 90230. (Honest Irving Forbush tried to sneak his own home address in there but luckily we caught it in time!)

Don't worry, man!
THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST
is on another page!

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MARVEL
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Dear Stan, Roy, and Neal,

The name of Tolkien's ultimate villain... the name of...
ALRONI

X-MEN #60 is the latest Marvel to reach England by a long way—they're usually months behind. Before I comment on it, I'd like to cast my vote for the continued story saga. When I was at Mangog (THOR #154-157), Noga (SUB-MARINER #9-13) the Sentinels (X-MEN #57-59) and try to find single issues as good, there are only a few copies of DR. STRANGE that compare. Not that one-porters are by any means bad, they should remain also.

As for "In The Shadow Of... Sauron" the story and art were fantastic except that the pteranodons (obviously from Ka-Zar's land) had tails similar to those of the rhamphorynchus. Pteranodons had no tails! As for Lykos becoming one, I'm waiting to see if my explanation concurs with yours. When Lykos was attacked by the pterosaurs, strange juices—perhaps blood—entered his body via his wounds and remained there until, in some incredible way, they reacted with Havok's power.

I'm looking forward to TOWER OF SHADOWS, but why don't we get any SPIDER-MAN SPECTACULARS in Britain? Rest assured—I'd buy one if I saw it.

Timothy Lees, 22 Rossene Road, Heald Green,
Cheshire, England

The SPIDEY SPECTACULAR was discontinued despite promising sales because of some staggering production problems, Tim—so it's not that you're missing any current issues; it's just that there aren't any.

As for just how Lykos became a human pterosaur (or Pterosauron, perhaps we should say), we're not sure we really gave much of an explanation except that he's something called a non-mutant variant—but your theory is pretty close to what Neal and Roy had in mind. Congrats, friend!

Dear Stan, Roy, and Neal,

Roy, you must have done some research to use pteranodons in X-MEN #60, but why didn't you do enough to know that pteranodons don't have tails! And, as if that wasn't bad enough, you and Neal showed the fingers that support the wing membrane coming out of the creature's arms. If you added together the fingers on the claws with the fingers coming out of the arms, the pteranodon that Neal drew on page 12 would have had 14 fingers! Well, at least you didn't show pteranodons with teeth...!

Now, don't get me wrong, Roy. Your scripting and Neal's art work were excellent. But, next time you use a prehistoric animal, get the facts straight!

Barry Alfonso, 2711 Magnolia Avenue,
San Diego, California 92109

Will do, Barry, although it could simply be that the creatures of the Savage Land are pterosaurs of a type whose fossils have not yet been found on earth—and that the real mistake was merely in calling them pteranodons at all. To tell the truth, what is happened is that Roy knew the creatures weren't your standard pterodactyls, and they seemed to match a written (non-pictorial) description he had read of pteranodons—so he called them by that name and was caught with his paleontology down. Next time, he hereby promises to call all winged reptiles by the generic name "pterosaur" and save himself and Neal a heap of problems!

Dear Stan, Roy, and Neal,

In X-MEN #60 Scott shouldn't have been wearing his sunglasses. Why? Because his powerful optic blast would have knocked them off his face. If Cyclops can stop a falling boulder and push it back up you know what he can do to his glasses. In ish #60 he didn't have a strap which held them to his head. He didn't have a strap in any other ish either. You've been making that mistake for years. You had better put a strap on his sunglasses or he'll kill everyone that he looks at!

So until Cyclops switches to 3-D glasses—Make Mine Marvel!
Norman Morris, 36 Anna Street,
Dayton, Ohio 45147

Come to think of it, Norm, although we've never explained it fully, we've always kind'a assumed that the substance of which Scott's sunglasses are made acts as a sponge to soak up the cosmic energy which is constantly building within Cyclops' awesome eyes—energy which is only released when the glasses are suddenly removed. Frankly, we feel that's about the only explanation possible—as any kind of straps which would hold the glasses on tightly enough would probably cause the rays to ricochet wildly around any room he might happen to be in. But, we'll listen to any conflicting arguments...!

Dear Stan, Roy, and Neal,

As most avid readers of X-MEN know, the power of a mutant influences his mind, as well as his body. Because of this the power of a mutant (he who has X-tra powers) is modified by the mutant's intelligence.

For instance, Magneto has become the most powerful of all the evil mutants, mainly because he knows how to use his power. On the other hand, the Toad could better his power if he knew how to use it. It's obvious that the mutant's power rests on his ability to use and control his power. If a mutant doesn't have this ability his power would be useless to him, as in Toad's case.

The second part of my letter concerns the most powerful of the good mutants, Havok. It was once said that Cyclops is the most powerful of this group. But not any more! With the introduction of Havok, we have seen one who could possibly challenge Magneto by himself. What makes him so great? His power is almost unbeatable and cannot be controlled. I have come to the conclusion that Havok could knock Scott down if they ever had a mix-up.

Let's put a little more romance in the scene. There isn't enough and I hope you'll do something about it. I was surprised when Lorna said on the bottom panel of page 7, ish #60 "Nobody's girl." Don't you guys know when you have a good thing going? Until I burn my M.M.M.S. card, MAKE MINE MARVEL!!

Ed Bishop, U.S. Naval Station, POB 15, c/o FPO,
New York, New York 09597

Don't burn that M.M.M.S. card, friend! As you know from reading this month's Bullpen Bulletin, it's worth its weight in gold when you join the swingin' new Marvelmania International club!

As for what we have in mind for both the X-Men and the recent adjuncts Lorna and Alex, we'll have to ask you to await developments in future issues. You'll have to take up Lorna's "nobody's girl" attitude with the mesmerizing Miss Dana herself—you know that the chivalrous Bullpen would never argue with a green-haired lady!

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Dear Stan, Roy, and Neal,

Imaginative technique in presenting X-MEN #62 marked this issue as the best of your monthly offerings by far. Of course, a fantasy tale such as this one, by reason of its very nature, demands strong imagination in its initial conception. And, aside from the obvious derivation of Ka-Zar from another, much older character of fantastic tales, the story abounded with imaginative episodes. Roy Thomas has kept up a constant stream of excellent scripts for the past 7 or 8 months now. The twist ending in this issue revealing the Creator to be none other than Magneto was characteristic of Roy's recent, fresh style.

But, to repeat myself, the real merits of this story are found in the imaginative approach utilized in presenting the tale rather than in the necessary imagination required in the conception of the characters, setting, and plotline. Mr. Adams has, since the disappearance of Steranko, become the master of unique presentation in the comic strip format. His multiple tankering with space perception, elapsed time between individual panels, pacing, dramatic and cinematic angles, extensions beyond panel borders, and of course, arrangement of panels making the whole page a collective piece of art, are a sight for sore eyes and a feast for the starved gourmets of the comic strip. His dream sequence was superbly rendered; it matters little whether or not it was inspired by an earlier Steranko sequence in NICK FURY. Now, after so much dwelling upon the manner in which his drawings are presented, let's take a look at his inherent drawing.

His dinosaurs, while not anatomically flawless, were delightfully Adams with their geared, clutching talons. Comic art needs to be exaggerated to provide greater impact upon the reader and thus, seldom is any living creature shown within the medium drawn in correct proportions. Witness the remarkable physique of each and every Marvel hero and villain. Adams' depiction of emotion-filled faces crackles with tension. His rendition of Amphibious puts many a Bug-Eyed Monster of the late EC group to shame.

Thus it was that I spent well over an hour reading (or rather looking at) the issue. Page 18, depicting the crisply-done demise of the Piper is by far the best page in this issue. Its Steranko-like symmetry of panel arrangement was a masterpiece of simplicity. The abrupt shock-cuts and close-ups were masterfully done and flowed as smoothly as any of the best of comparable Eisner-Spirit sequences. Until Steranko returns (indeed, perhaps even after), Adams reigns unchallenged in my book. He has brought X-MEN from the very bottom of the Marvel barrel to the top of the heap.

In closing, I feel I must mention that I do realize that a lot of the credit for the above-mentioned effects should go to the writer, Roy Thomas. The pacing, intelligent lack of dialogue where needless, and much of the sequencing are factors exhibiting his clear understanding of the comics medium.

Douglas Moench, 1673 West Pratt,
Chicago, Illinois

Doug, we always hate to play favorites 'cause we enjoy just about every littin' letter which crosses our desks and drawing boards—but Roy and Neal have just voted your epistle their special award for Most Perceptive Critic of the Month! 'Nuff said!

Dear Stan, Roy, and Neal,

I'm writing to you about one of your greatest and loveliest characters, Marvel Girl. I have a theory concerning Jean's telekinetic ability: what it is and how it works.

Here goes. Jean has the power to generate an electro-magnetic screen around objects, people, etc., and around herself. Anything in this screen would be affected neither by gravity nor inertia.

In other words, it's an antigravity screen. This explains how she does all of her telekinetic tricks, including levitating herself. She can't lift enormous weights because of the energy needed to produce the screen. But, I think Prof. X taught her how to conserve her energy, channel it properly, so that eventually Jean needed less energy to lift greater weights.

That accounts for her new ability to levitate herself. The spare energy was used to amplify her latent telepathy, bringing it to full scope.

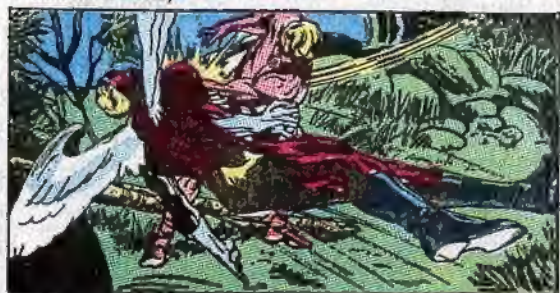
This theory may be wrong, but no other person has really explained Marvel Girl's power. If she could develop telekinesis

further, Jean would be the most powerful X-Man, more powerful in fact than many of your other costumed cut-ups.

Yours until Iceman takes a vacation in the Sahara Desert!

Charles Hunt, 1206 South Denver Apt. 308,
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74119

Tell you what, Charlie. We've discovered from past experience that many of our readers know more of the intricacies of telepathy, telekinesis (mind-over-matter), and other such things than we do—so we'll sit back and wait for some of our own public defenders to carry the ball! (Or, who says this isn't the Marvel Age of Indolent Editors?)



Dear Stan, Roy, Neal, and Tom,

Artwork is the heart and soul of the comics medium. If there is a bad artist, there's a bad strip. Witness X-MEN #'s 46, 47, and 48. Not that the artwork was so bad, but it wasn't comparable to the recent art by Mr. Adams.

It has been noted that these three issues were some of the worst ever put out by Marvel. They were terrible! But then... 49! Although there was nothing spectacular about the story and the art inside, the cover was the thing. With Steranko on the cover of one of Marvel's worst comics it was shown that bigger and better things were to come. And they did. #50. Steranko. Magnificent. Beautiful scripting, and excellent art. Too good to be true. It couldn't last, I said to myself. Next issue. What? Why it can't be true! Another Steranko! Better than last time! Story... excellent! Another milestone in Marvel's history. It can't last.

And it didn't. #'s 52, 53, and 54. They didn't compare with the other issues. #52 was all right, and the art was okay, but it just didn't click. With Smith on the X-MEN the art was so bad that it's a miracle it was even printed. For #54, I've the same comments I had for #52. It was all right but nothing spectacular. Then came #55. For some reason the art and script improved quite a bit. It was really very good. X-MEN was coming up. What next? Adams.

The art of Adams is the best Marvel has. Absolutely perfect! Mr. Palmer's inks were also beautiful. It made a perfect example of how good comics can really be. Adams and Palmer, two names to go down in comics history. Roy is the best writer you have. Roy has a way to interweave action with just the right amount of plot-building.

In conclusion, the X-MEN are destined for greater heights. Also... KEEP ADAMS!!

Mark Verheiden, 3245 S.W. 185th Street,
Aloha, Oregon 97005

Mark, we're big Neal Adams boosters since the days when he was working exclusively for one of our capricious competitors—but we've had to throw in an extra ish or two by other, also-talented artists because the Notorious One labors so long over each and every pulse-pounding page that he's sometimes hard-pressed to make a strict monthly deadline.

The same goes for Rascally Roy, whose scripting you obviously seem to enjoy. He spends much longer writing THE X-MEN each month than he does any other book—and the same thing goes for the incredible inking of Tender Tommy Palmer, who's been known to burn both ends of the candle himself in order to apply all those eye-catching tones which enchant his fast-growing legion of fans).

In short, THE X-MEN has been a labor of love for all three of our hard-working artists—and the Rascally One was truly chagrined when, because of the short, one-week vacation he took at the end of August, he wasn't able to script this latest episode himself—and lose all that time and money again! That's devotion, lad!

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